



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE-LED INVESTIGATION DISMANTLES DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN THE CARIBBEAN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— H.S. Garcia, United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico; Lydia St. John-Mellado, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Marcelino Borges, Director, Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); Gustavo Araiza, Chief, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations; Jerome Harris, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Pedro Toledo, Superintendent, Puerto Rico Police Department, announced the criminal indictment and arrests of nine alleged members of a drug trafficking organization in a complex international drug trafficking scheme that spanned from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic to the United States.

The 15-count indictment stems from an ICE-led investigation that revealed that the drug trafficking organization headed by Ricardo Gonzalez-Zapata and Lucas Omar Osorio-Osorio was involved in the conspiracy to import cocaine from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela into the United States for distribution to obtain a significant financial gain and profit.

According to the indictment, members of the drug trafficking conspiracy planned and arranged the loading of cocaine onto cargo containers originating in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic destined for San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The indictment further alleges that the members of the drug trafficking organization and their conspirators determined the shipping schedules and destinations of containers in order to determine when container ships were bound for Puerto Rico. Multi-kilograms of cocaine were loaded into containers to be smuggled into the island. The information of the containers was then transmitted to members of the conspiracy who acted as brokers, shipping supervisors, recipients and transporters working in the Port of Puerto Rico.

The following alleged members of the drug trafficking organization were arrested by ICE agents yesterday:

- Ricardo Gonzalez-Zapata
- Lucas Omar Osorio
- Omi Rosado-Santo Domingo
- Miguel Acevedo Cardona
- Jose Rodriguez-Perez
- Antonio Colon-Rivera
- Christian Rosado-Santiago
- Pedro Torres-Perez
- Jerry Guerra-Ponce

As a result of counts one through 14 of the indictment the defendants shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (USC), Sections 853(a)(1) and (2) any property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation, and any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used in any manner or part to commit and/or facilitate the commission of the violation alleged on the indictment. Forfeited property included, but was not limited to, \$3,300,000 in United States currency and properties in Urbanizacion Caparra Terrace, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The public is reminded that a criminal indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Massucco-LaTaif.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.